

OCEANS MANAGEMENT AND FISHERIES

s.15(1)(I.A.)

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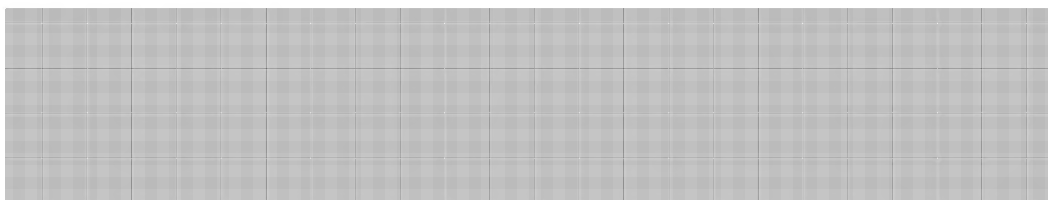
OCEANS MANAGEMENT AND FISHERIES

CANADIAN POSITION

- Canada is proposing that G7 countries enhance their cooperation and partner on strengthening oceans research and knowledge and advance governance changes to improve oceans protection and sustainable management of fisheries.

- Efforts would be dedicated to

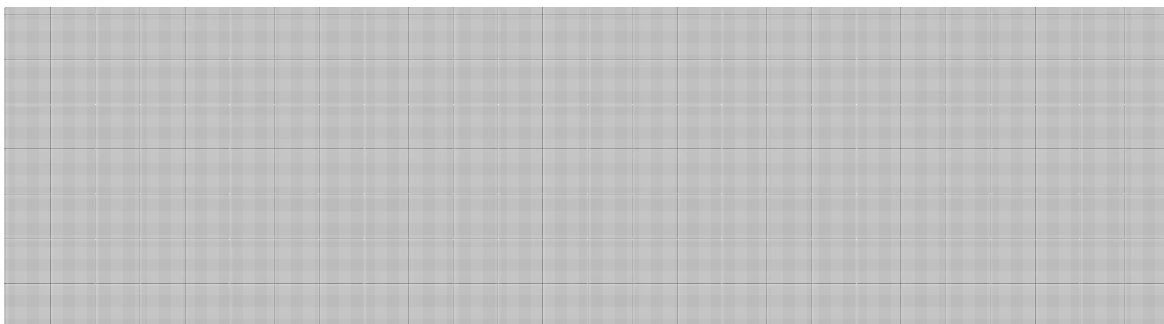
1. strengthening partnerships on oceans observation networks and systems, and pollution tracking;



3. Strengthening fisheries partnerships and governance, by ramping up G7 efforts to tackle Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing; addressing the global issue of abandoned, lost, and otherwise discarded fishing gear that impact marine life and fish stocks, adapting fisheries management approaches and tools to factor in the impacts of climate change on fish stocks and on fisheries; and by reducing seafood waste along the whole value chain.

- Canadian objectives are to develop collaborative partnerships with G7 and other countries to help advance modern approaches to oceans protection and fisheries management
- As there are differing gender roles for men and women in the management of fisheries and oceans globally, consideration should continue to be given, as relevant, by the G7 to any such implications throughout the implementation of proposed initiatives.

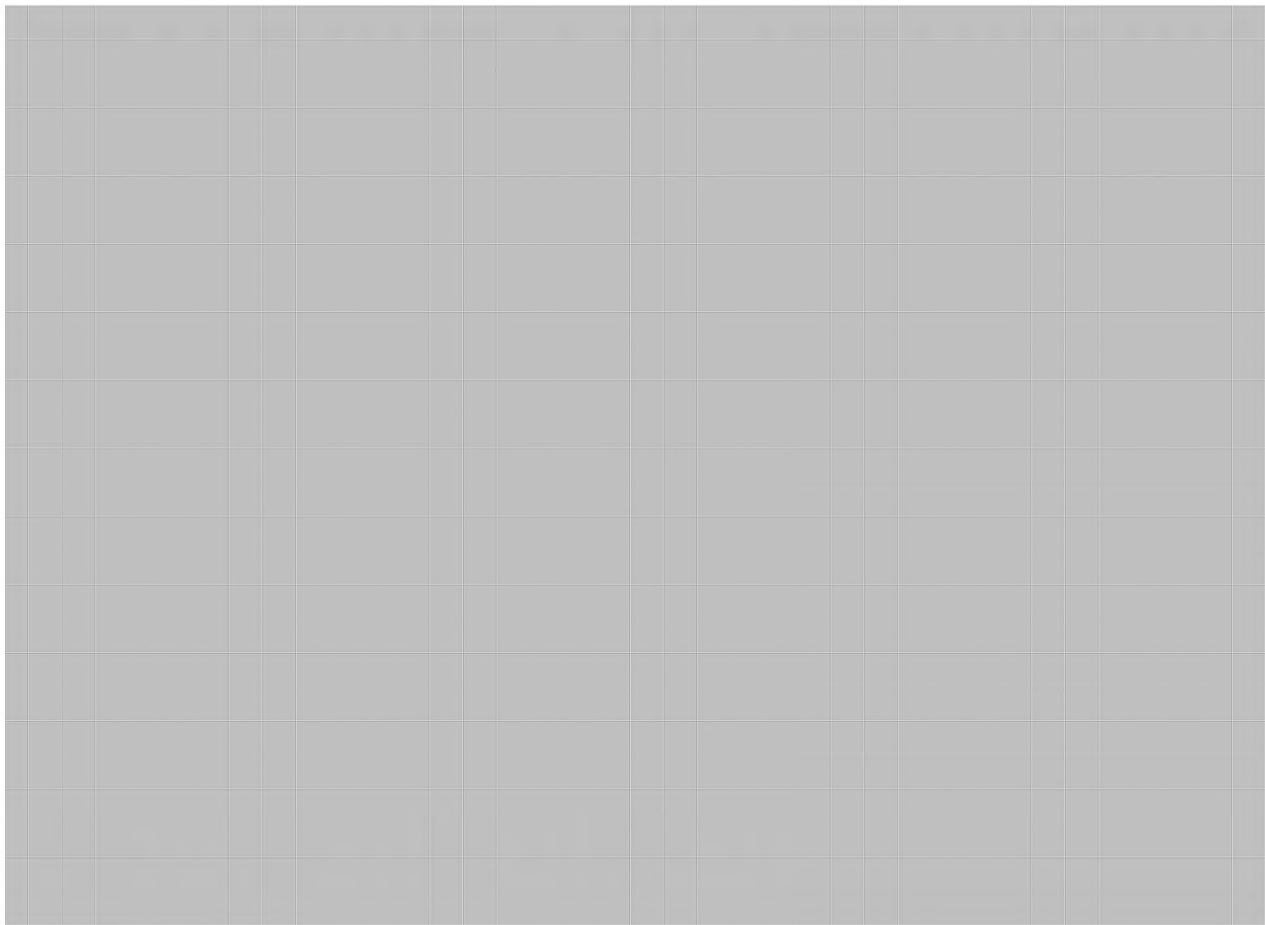
OTHER G7 POSITIONS

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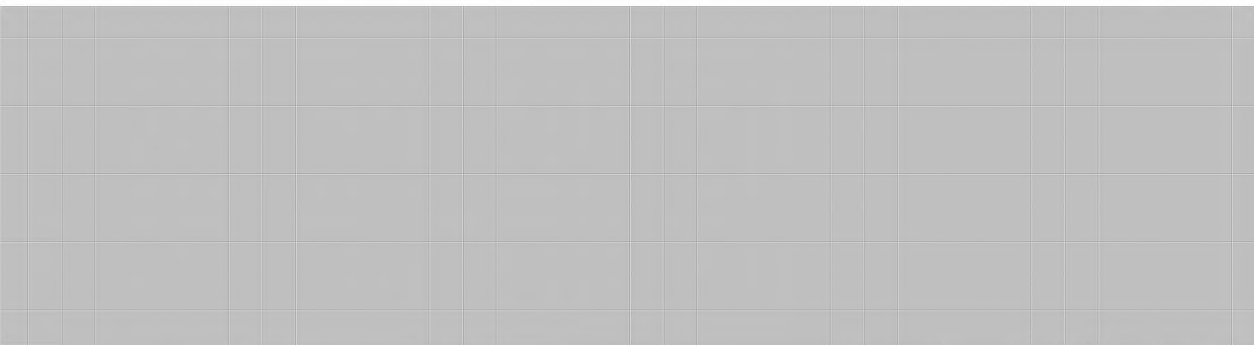
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BACKGROUND

Ocean Management

The governance mechanisms in place to manage the global oceans are continuing to evolve to meet current social, environmental, political and economic needs and circumstances. Increased pressures that are being placed on the oceans require robust governance frameworks and management tools to mitigate anthropogenic and climate-related impacts. New approaches to managing the ocean and its resources to ensure the protection of vulnerable marine species and ocean ecosystems are required, including those managed by Indigenous peoples, and those in place to protect areas of the high seas.



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To this end, a robust knowledge and understanding of the oceans and marine resources is key to adapting our management approaches and activities to ensure sustainability. The global nature of ocean ecosystems demands international scientific cooperation to fully understand the status and trends of the oceans, such as through the use of marine spatial data and planning. Understanding the impacts of various stressors, including climate change, pollution and human activities on the marine environment, will enable us to more effectively mitigate those impacts. Establishing benchmarks of current marine biodiversity are integral to monitoring future increases in marine biodiversity.

Fisheries Management

Since the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held in Rio in 1992, Canada has played a leadership role in advancing strong fisheries governance at the international level, including in the negotiation of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement. Progress has been made in implementing modern management concepts such as the precautionary approach and ecosystems based management. Creative tools have been developed to improve monitoring and control of fisheries to tackle the issue illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, which threatens the sustainability of fisheries. G7 countries have taken important steps to address IUU Fishing.

Canada will continue to pursue a leadership role through the effective implementation of goals and targets under the UN Sustainable Development Goals, including increasing the number of fish stocks which are within sustainable biological levels, eliminating IUU fishing, and reducing seafood waste generation along the entire value chain and global food waste.

Fisheries management has long been predicated on securing sustainability and stability for the sector. However, the effects of climate change are proving challenging, with distribution and migration patterns of marine species changing as ocean conditions change. There is a need for governance and decision-making mechanisms that can quickly adapt to unforeseen changes, to ensure sustainability, while recognizing the socio-economic impacts on coastal communities.

As more evidence shows the importance of marine life and particularly marine mammals to the marine ecosystem and biodiversity, there growing social license issues and resulting increasing pressure to mitigate the effects of human activities on these species from fishing and shipping. The most recent examples of endangered Right Whales' surprising increased presence (perhaps resulting from changes in water temperatures, bringing in new food prey) and related entangled in fishing ropes and nets, and suffering from ship strikes in the St Lawrence Seaway is a good

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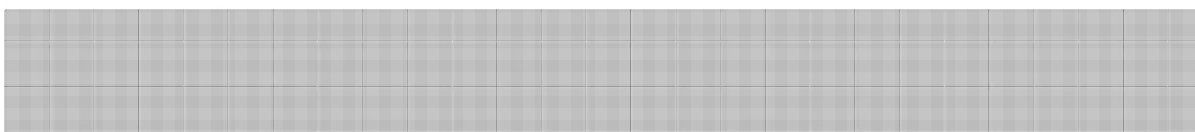
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example of the need to review traditional fishing grounds and shipping corridors, and enhance mitigation strategies. There is also growing pressure to address abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) which results in 'ghost' fishing (putting added pressure on fish stocks), impacts marine mammals through entanglement, and contributes to the growing amount of pollution in the ocean, including microplastics (from the breakdown of synthetic materials used in a significant amount of fishing gear, including ghost gear).

Gender Equality

s.15(1)(I.A.) While it is recognized that there tend to be gendered roles in global fisheries, limited attention
s.21(1)(b) has been given yet to this issue in a G7 context. As noted by the Food and Agriculture Organization, capturing fish in coastal and deep-sea waters is almost always a male domain, and carries with it high occupational health and safety risks. Women in fishing households do perform preparatory work, such as mending nets, although their contribution is often "informal" and rarely remunerated. Women's most prominent role - in small-scale and industrial fisheries - is in post-harvest, processing and marketing.



KEY MESSAGES

- With the increase in human activity and its resulting impacts on the oceans, new approaches to managing the ocean and its resources to ensure the protection of vulnerable marine species and ocean ecosystems are required, including those managed by Indigenous peoples, and those in place to protect areas of the high seas.
- To this end, Canada is proposing that G7 countries commit to pursue partnerships and governance changes for protecting oceans and coasts and sustainably manage fisheries in the following key areas:

Improved Oceans governance

- Pursue international standards for Marine Protected Areas;
- Enhance leadership in the negotiations of a new treaty to protect high seas biodiversity, including by advancing efforts to establish pilot Marine Protected Areas in multijurisdictional settings - in the high seas or transboundary.
- Develop a network of regional and international partners that would monitor and report on marine pollution and microplastics to improve the management of marine and coastal ecosystems and resources.
- Strengthen and expand ocean observation networks, leveraging the expertise and infrastructure of existing international organizations, and of the G7 working group on the Future of the Oceans and Seas.

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Improved Fisheries Governance

Commit to strengthening the governance for sustainable fisheries through:

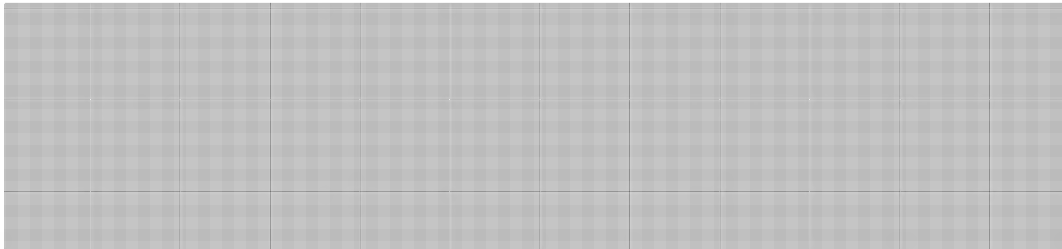
- Agreeing to develop a G7 strategy to Tackle Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing;
- Strengthening international rules for mitigating marine mammal interactions with maritime activity, including fishing and shipping;
- Strengthening international guidance to reduce abandoned and lost fishing gear, including through gear marking, and mitigate their impacts on marine life and fish stocks;
- Promote full utilization of fish and seafood by advancing the development of an international strategy to reduce seafood waste and promoting innovation partnerships;
- Adapting fisheries management measures and tools to better adjust management and practices to the impacts of climate change and their effects on fish stocks.

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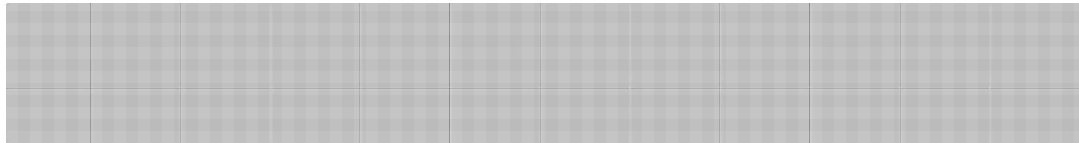
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OCEANS MANAGEMENT AND FISHERIES

CANADIAN POSITION

- Canada is proposing that G7 countries enhance their cooperation and partner on strengthening oceans research and knowledge, and advance governance changes to improve oceans protection and sustainable management of fisheries by:
 - Strengthening partnerships on oceans observation networks and systems, information exchange, and access to data to help detect and respond to stressors, including pollution;
 - 
 - Strengthening fisheries partnerships and governance by: ramping up G7 efforts to tackle Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing; addressing the global issue of derelict fishing gear that impact marine life and fish stocks; adapting fisheries management approaches and tools to factor in the impacts of climate change on fish stocks and fisheries management; and, by reducing seafood waste in support of sustainable fisheries.
- Collaborative partnerships with G7 and other countries to help advance modern, precautionary approaches to oceans protection and fisheries management, especially with developing coastal states.
- Promoting the role of women in fisheries and coastal management in support of sustainable livelihoods, especially for community recovery in the wake of extreme events.

OTHER G7 POSITIONS

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BACKGROUND

Ocean Management

The governance mechanisms in place to manage the global oceans are continuing to evolve to meet current social, environmental, political and economic needs and circumstances. Increased pressures on the oceans require robust governance frameworks and management tools to mitigate anthropogenic and climate-related impacts. New approaches to managing the ocean and its resources to ensure the protection of vulnerable marine species and ocean ecosystems are required, including those to protect areas of the high seas.

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s.15(1)(I.A.)

s.21(1)(b)

A robust knowledge and understanding of the oceans and marine resources is key to adapting our management approaches and activities to ensure sustainability. The global nature of ocean ecosystems demands international scientific cooperation to fully understand the status and trends of the oceans, such as through the use of marine spatial data and planning.

Understanding the impacts of various stressors, including climate change, pollution and human activities on the marine environment, will enable us to more effectively mitigate those impacts. Building on the ongoing work of the G7 Working group on the Future of the Seas and Oceans, establishing benchmarks of current marine biodiversity are integral to monitoring future increases in marine biodiversity.

Fisheries Management

Canada has played a significant role in advancing strong fisheries governance at the international level, including in the negotiation of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (adopted in 1995, into force 2001), which all G7 members have ratified. Progress has been made in implementing modern management concepts such as the precautionary approach and ecosystems based management to avoid serious harm to fish stocks or their ecosystems. Tools have been developed to improve monitoring and control of fisheries to tackle the issue of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, which threatens the sustainability of fisheries. These tools include vessel monitoring systems (VMS), satellite image monitoring, catch documentation schemes.

Canada will continue to pursue the effective implementation of goals and targets under the UN Sustainable Development Goals, including increasing the number of fish stocks that are within sustainable biological levels, eliminating IUU fishing, and reducing seafood waste generation along the entire value chain and increasing efficiency and productivity.

Fisheries management has long been predicated on securing sustainability and stability for the sector. However, the effects of climate change are proving challenging, with distribution and

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migration patterns of marine species changing as ocean conditions change. There is a need for governance and decision-making mechanisms to quickly adapt to unforeseen changes and ensure sustainability while recognizing the socio-economic impacts on coastal communities.

Evidence shows the importance of marine life, to the marine ecosystem and biodiversity. Meanwhile, there is increasing pressure to mitigate the effects of human activities on these species such as marine mammals from fishing and shipping. There is growing pressure to address abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) which results in 'ghost' fishing, which represents 10% of marine litter. This puts added pressure on fish stocks, impacts marine mammals through entanglement, and contributes to the growing amount of pollution in the ocean, including microplastics (from the breakdown of synthetic materials used in fishing gear).

Gender Equality

While it is recognized that there are gendered roles in global fisheries, limited attention has been given to this issue in a G7 context to date. As noted by the Food and Agriculture Organization, capturing fish in coastal and deep-sea waters is almost always a male domain and carries high occupational health and safety risks. Women in fishing households do perform preparatory work, such as mending nets, although their contribution is often "informal" and rarely remunerated. Women's most prominent role, in small-scale and industrial fisheries, is in post-harvest, processing and marketing.

s.15(1)(I.A.)
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KEY MESSAGES

- With the increase in human activity and its resulting impacts on the oceans, new approaches to managing the ocean and its resources are needed to ensure the protection of vulnerable marine species and ocean ecosystems, especially those in shared ocean spaces such as the high seas.
- To this end, Canada is proposing that G7 countries commit to pursuing partnerships so that we have the necessary evidence for informed decisions, and the joint effort needed to protect vulnerable ocean spaces and species, ensuring the livelihoods and resiliency of our coastal populations.

**Pages 10 to / à 11
are withheld pursuant to section
sont retenues en vertu de l'article**

69(1)(g) re: (a)

**of the Access to Information Act
de la Loi sur l'accès à l'information**

COMBATTING ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING

CANADIAN POSITION

- Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing continues to be a global problem with significant economic, social, and environmental consequences.
- Canada is calling for increased coordinated action on IUU fishing in the following priority areas:
 - Build stronger public-private partnerships with key countries and technology providers to deploy innovative satellite-based platforms.
 - Advance the adoption and implementation of a mandatory unique vessel identification number for all fishing vessels through the International Maritime Organization.
 - Support technology focused on remote sensing and identification of IUU fishing vessels.
 - Support the launch of regional fisheries intelligence groups, in partnership with INTERPOL and other organizations, to share information on IUU fishing.
 - Develop new tools and share best practices to combat IUU fishing.
 - Support the leadership and empowerment of women and youth as agents of positive change, including in fisheries management and decision-making to address food security.
- Proposed activities will be viewed through a Gender-Based Analysis Plus lens and will promote the participation of women, girls, youth, and other traditionally marginalized groups, in order to ensure effective socio-economic outcomes in the fisheries sector.

OTHER G7 POSITIONS

- All other G7 members are party to the FAO Port State Measures Agreement¹ (PSMA) to combat IUU fishing. In Canada, the Agreement has received Royal Assent, and we are currently in the process of updating our domestic regulations in order to be able to ratify.

¹ *The FAO Agreement on Port State Measures was adopted in 2009 to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing through the implementation of robust port State measures. Port State measures are requirements established by states with which foreign vessels must comply as a condition of entry and use of the ports within that State. Such measures can include, for example, denial of port entry and use of port services, requirements for pre-port entry notification, designation of ports that permit landings, documentation requirements, and in-port inspections.*

- s.15(1)(I.A.)

- s.21(1)(b)

- s.69(1)(g) re: (c)

- s.69(1)(g) re: (f)

BACKGROUND

IUU fishing is a major contributor to declining fish stocks and marine habitat destruction, which has significant economic, social, and environmental consequences. Worldwide economic losses from IUU have been estimated at US\$10-23 billion annually.² Various complementary tools have been developed to improve monitoring and control of fisheries to tackle IUU fishing, including vessel monitoring systems (VMS), satellite image monitoring, port state measures, and catch documentation schemes. Canada has a robust enforcement regime for addressing IUU fishing in domestic and international waters and is currently engaged in a range of activities to combat IUU fishing activities.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) actively participates in, or indirectly contributes to, a number of international initiatives and international organizations in combatting IUU fishing such as INTERPOL and the International Monitoring Control and Surveillance (IMCS) Network. DFO also contributes to international fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance efforts through its memberships in a number of regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs). Direct participation in key international enforcement committees allows Canada to promote international fisheries compliance, meet its international obligations and contribute to combating threats to shared global fisheries resources.

To further bolster its capacity to address IUU fishing, Canada is in the process of ratifying the PSMA. As part of Canada's implementation of the PSMA, Canada has passed legislation that will prohibit the import of fish that have been harvested in violation of RFMO conservation rules, a foreign law, or without the documentation required by our regulations.

² Agnew DJ, Pearce J, Pramod G, Peatman T, Watson R, et al. (2009) Estimating the Worldwide Extent of Illegal Fishing. <http://www.plosone.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pone.0004570>

Women account for about half of the global fisheries workforce. Though they are typically concentrated in upstream and downstream activities, their role in the sector is broad-based, and their livelihoods and food security are impacted by IUU fishing. The proposed activities to create partnerships and build capacity to combat IUU fishing in developing coastal states and SIDS will need be reviewed through a Gender-Based Analysis Plus lens, and will need to promote the participation of women, girls, youth, and other traditionally marginalized groups, in order to ensure the effectiveness of this work.

KEY MESSAGES

- The Government of Canada is committed to managing our marine fisheries sustainably. We do so based on effective measures such as ecosystem approaches, the precautionary approach, sound scientific evidence, and responsible stewardship policies and practices.

Responsive: Port State Measures Agreement

- The Government of Canada has unwavering support for this international agreement and we are committed to its implementation to combat IUU fishing.

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s.69(1)(g) re: (c)

s.69(1)(g) re: (f)

Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing

CANADIAN POSITION

- Managing fisheries sustainably is essential for the conservation of the marine environment, for food security and nutrition, and to contribute to income, wealth and poverty alleviation for billions of people around the world, particularly for developing States. Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing continues to be a major threat to sustainable fisheries.
- As part of Canada's G7 presidency and evolving international oceans leadership strategy, we are calling for increased coordinated action on IUU fishing in the following priority areas:
 - Build stronger public-private partnerships with key countries and technology providers to deploy innovative satellite-based platforms.
 - Advance the adoption and implementation of a mandatory unique vessel identification number for all fishing vessels through the International Maritime Organization.
 - Support technology focused on remote sensing and identification of IUU fishing vessels.
 - Support the launch of regional fisheries intelligence groups, in partnership with INTERPOL and other organizations, to share information on IUU fishing.
 - Develop new tools and share best practices to combat IUU fishing.
 - Support the leadership and empowerment of women and youth as agents of positive change, including in fisheries management and decision-making to address food security.
- With respect to the broader issue of sustainable fisheries, gender equity issues will be considered. Women account for about half of the global fisheries workforce. Proposed activities will be viewed through a Gender-Based Analysis Plus lens, and when relevant will promote the participation of women, girls, youth, and other traditionally marginalized groups, in order to ensure effective socio-economic outcomes in the fisheries sector.

OTHER G7 POSITIONS

- All other G7 countries are already party to the FAO Port State Measures Agreement to combat IUU, including the European Union on behalf of its Member States. In Canada

- s.15(1)(I.A.) the Agreement has received Royal Assent, and we are currently in the process of
s.21(1)(b) updating our domestic regulations in order to be able to ratify.



BACKGROUND

Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing continues to be a global problem with significant economic, social, and environmental consequences. Worldwide economic losses from IUU have been estimated at US\$10-23 billion annually.¹ Various complementary tools have been developed to improve monitoring and control of fisheries to tackle IUU fishing,

¹ Agnew DJ, Pearce J, Pramod G, Peatman T, Watson R, et al. (2009) *Estimating the Worldwide Extent of Illegal Fishing*. <http://www.plosone.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pone.0004570>

s.69(1)(g) re: (c) including vessel monitoring systems (VMS), satellite image monitoring, port State measures, and catch documentation schemes.
s.69(1)(g) re: (f)

Canada has a robust enforcement regime for addressing IUU fishing in domestic and international waters and is currently engaged in a range of activities to combat IUU fishing activities.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) actively participates in, or indirectly contributes to, a number of international initiatives and international organizations in combatting IUU fishing such as INTERPOL and the International Monitoring Control and Surveillance (IMCS) Network. DFO also contributes to international fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance efforts through its memberships in a number of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs). Direct participation in key international enforcement committees allows Canada to promote international fisheries compliance, meet its international obligations and contribute to combating threats to shared global fisheries resources.

To further bolster its capacity to address IUU fishing, Canada is in the process of ratifying the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA).² As part of Canada's implementation of the PSMA, Canada has passed legislation that will prohibit the import of fish that have been harvested in violation of RFMO conservation rules, a foreign law, or without the documentation required by our regulations. [REDACTED]

Women account for about half of the global fisheries workforce. Though they are typically concentrated in upstream and downstream activities, their role in the sector is broad-based, and their livelihoods and food security are impacted by IUU fishing. The proposed activities to create partnerships and build capacity to combat IUU fishing in developing coastal States and SIDS will need be reviewed through a Gender-Based Analysis Plus lens, and will need to promote the participation of women, girls, youth, and other traditionally marginalized groups, in order to ensure the effectiveness of this work.

KEY MESSAGES

- **The Government of Canada is committed to managing our marine fisheries sustainably. We do so based on effective measures such as ecosystem approaches, the precautionary approach, sound scientific evidence, and responsible stewardship policies and practices.**
- **As part of Canada's presidency of the G7 this year, we are calling for increased, coordinated action to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. This could include:**

² *The Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing* (negotiated under the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, in force as from 5 June 2016).

- **Building stronger public-private partnerships with key countries and technology providers to deploy innovative satellite-based platforms.**
- **Advancing the adoption and implementation of a mandatory unique vessel identification number for all fishing vessels through the International Maritime Organization.**
- **Supporting technology focused on remote sensing and identification of IUU fishing vessels.**
- **Supporting the launch of regional fisheries intelligence groups, in partnership with INTERPOL and other organizations, to share information on IUU fishing.**
- **Developing new tools and share best practices to combat IUU fishing.**
- **Support the leadership and empowerment of women and youth as agents of positive change, including in fisheries management and decision-making to address food security.**

Responsive, on Port State Measures Agreement

- **The Government of Canada has unwavering support for this international agreement and we are committed to its implementation to combat IUU fishing.**

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s.69(1)(g) re: (c)

s.69(1)(g) re: (f)

Combatting Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing

CANADIAN POSITION

- As part of Canada's G7 presidency and emerging international oceans leadership strategy, we are calling for increased coordinated action on illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing by building on existing commitments and previous global actions to address gaps and better share data and information.
- This would be accomplished by: strengthening public-private partnerships with key countries and technology providers to deploy innovative platforms including satellite-based initiatives; by advancing the adoption and implementation of a mandatory unique vessel identification number for all fishing vessels through the International Maritime Organization; and, by launching regional fisheries intelligence groups, in partnership with INTERPOL and other organizations, to share information on IUU fishing.

OTHER G7 POSITIONS

- On a working level conference call on the G7 Oceans theme on March 28, 2018 participating G7 countries noted broad support of action on IUU fishing in the context of the G7.

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s.21(1)(b)

BACKGROUND

s.69(1)(g) re: (c)

s.69(1)(g) re: (f) Managing fisheries sustainably is essential for the conservation of the marine environment, for food security and nutrition, and to contribute to income, wealth and poverty alleviation for billions of people around the world, particularly for developing States. Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing continues to be a global problem with significant economic, social, and environmental consequences.

Worldwide economic losses from IUU have been estimated at US\$10-23 billion annually.¹ Various complementary tools have been developed to improve monitoring and control of fisheries to tackle IUU fishing, including vessel monitoring systems (VMS), satellite image monitoring, port State measures, and catch documentation schemes.

Canada has a robust enforcement regime for addressing IUU fishing in domestic and international waters and is currently engaged in a range of activities to combat IUU fishing activities.

All other G7 countries are already party to the FAO Port State Measures Agreement to combat IUU, including the European Union on behalf of its Member States. The main purpose of the Agreement is to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing by requiring that fishing vessels request permission to dock at a port and inform the port of the details of its fishing operations. Permission to dock can be denied if IUU fishing has occurred. The measure is intended to block illegally caught fish from entering the marketplace.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) actively participates in, or indirectly contributes to, a number of international initiatives and international organizations in combatting IUU fishing such as INTERPOL and the International Monitoring Control and Surveillance (IMCS) Network. DFO also contributes to international fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance efforts through its memberships in a number of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs). Direct participation in key international enforcement committees allows Canada to

¹ Agnew DJ, Pearce J, Pramod G, Peatman T, Watson R, et al. (2009) *Estimating the Worldwide Extent of Illegal Fishing*. <http://www.plosone.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pone.0004570>

promote international fisheries compliance, meet its international obligations and contribute to combating threats to shared global fisheries resources.

With respect to the broader issue of sustainable fisheries, gender equity issues will be considered. Women account for about half of the global fisheries workforce. Proposed activities will be viewed through a Gender-Based Analysis Plus lens, and when relevant will promote the participation of women, girls, youth, and other traditionally marginalized groups, in order to ensure effective socio-economic outcomes in the fisheries sector.

KEY MESSAGES

- As part of Canada's presidency of the G7 this year, we are calling for increased, coordinated action to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. This could include:
 - Building stronger public-private partnerships with key countries and technology providers to deploy innovative platforms, including satellites.
 - Advancing the adoption and implementation of a mandatory unique vessel identification number for all fishing vessels through the International Maritime Organization.
 - Supporting the launch of regional fisheries intelligence groups, in partnership with INTERPOL and other organizations, to share information on IUU fishing.
 - Support the leadership and empowerment of women and youth as agents of positive change, including in fisheries management and decision-making to address food security.

Responsive, on Port State Measures Agreement

- The Government of Canada has unwavering support for this international agreement and we are committed to its implementation to combat IUU fishing.

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s.69(1)(g) re: (c)

s.69(1)(g) re: (f)

HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE OCEANS**CANADIAN POSITION**

s.15(1)(I.A.)

s.21(1)(b)

OTHER G7 POSITIONS*Ocean Observation*

- On the issue of increasing global ocean observation and efforts to enhance and share ocean data and information with developing states there appears to be strong support among G7 States.
- There were questions about the appropriate baseline for a commitment to double the ocean data. The G7 future of seas working group was raised as an area where work could continue under this theme, specifically on oceans observation.
- Expanding on the global ocean observation and tracking efforts, various delegations have called for a reference to earth observation and seabed mapping as part of the broader ocean observation initiative.

Ocean Governance (Marine Protected Areas, Biodiversity beyond national jurisdictions - BBNJ)

- Among most G7 countries there is support for the importance of G7 leadership in driving the negotiation of an international agreement to address the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the high seas (i.e., BBNJ).

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IUU Fishing

- On a working level conference call on the G7 Oceans theme on March 28, 2018 participating G7 countries noted broad support of action on IUU fishing in the context of the G7. At the FASS meeting in Ottawa, several delegations were supportive of considering the “positive” angle of sustainable fishing, food security, and consumer choices. It was highlighted that this could be an opportunity for the G7 to speak about fisheries as part of food security for the first time.
- There was a call to link IUU fishing as one aspect of the broader issue of overexploitation of fish stocks.
- In light of the various UN bodies that address oceans and fishing issues, there was a call to properly reference the role they play and how any G7 efforts would mobilize support for existing programs and initiatives.

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s.69(1)(g) re: (a)

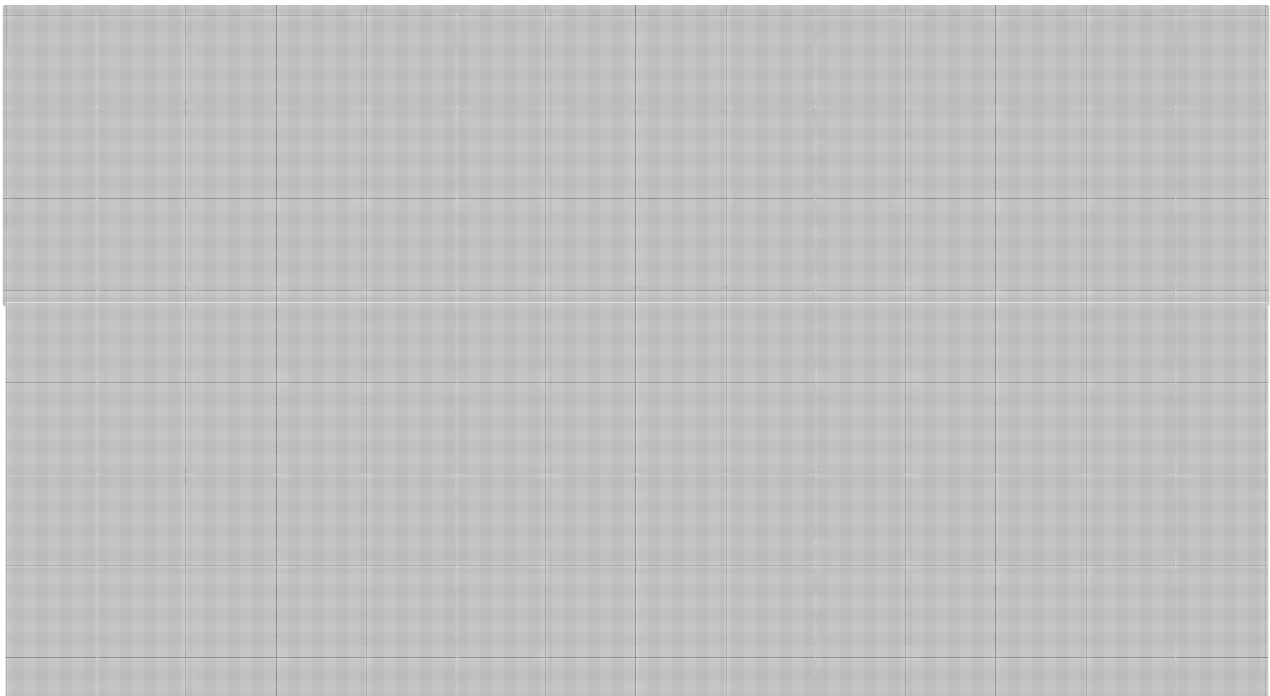
BACKGROUND

Oceans play a fundamental role as a key driver of the earth's climate systems, but also directly support the livelihoods, food security, and economic prosperity of billions of people. Ocean stressors such as climate, oceanographic and ecosystem changes, plastics and marine pollution, and IUU fishing affect the health and resilience of coastal communities and marine resources.

Ocean knowledge and observation

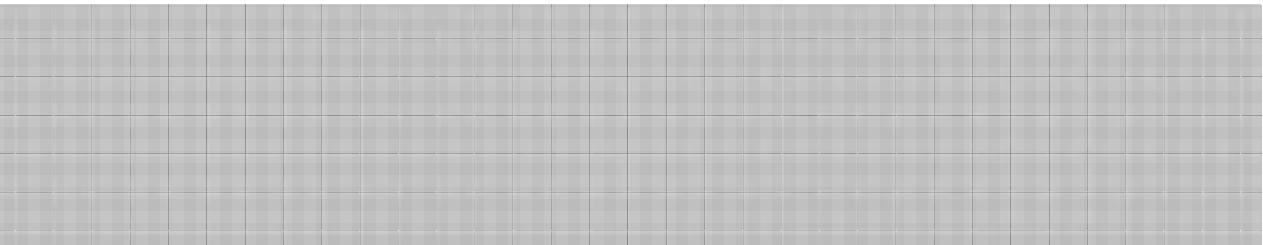
Robust knowledge of the oceans and marine resources is key to adapting our management approaches and activities to ensure sustainability. The global nature of ocean ecosystems demands international scientific cooperation to fully understand the status and trends of the oceans, such as through the use of marine spatial data and planning. Understanding the impacts of various stressors, including climate change, pollution and human activities on the marine environment, will enable us to more effectively mitigate those impacts. Ocean Observation programs enable us to assess and report on the state of world's oceans, aquatic resources, and ecosystems. Building on the ongoing work of the G7 Working group on the Future of the Seas and Oceans, establishing benchmarks of current marine biodiversity are integral to monitoring future increases in marine biodiversity.

While Canada has recently made significant re-investments in domestic science, including oceans science, the reality is that international scientific cooperation is necessary to fully understand the status and trends of the oceans. This is especially important in ocean areas experiencing accelerated change.



- s.21(1)(b) The US has also been active on the oceans observation front through satellite based technology administrated through their NASA Program and by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

There is broad support in G7 for collaborating on oceans observation. Past recommendations from the G7 working group on the Future of the Seas and Oceans have been adopted by G7 ministers in the past, in support of these collaborative efforts.



A G7 Commitments that sees G7 countries enhancing their monitoring activities and sharing their data and with developing states, would go a long way to help better plan for more resilient coasts and communities and help plan and manage for improved oceans sustainability.

Ocean governance

Canada has a long history of leadership in terms of oceans governance, even if this leadership had diminished over the last decade. However, Canada's recently renewed leadership in the protection of oceans is garnering growing support at the global level, fueled by credible achievements in Canada towards achieving the global 10% ocean protection target by 2020. There are significant opportunities for Canada to continue to position itself as a world leader in global oceans governance, including through Canada's G7 presidency and key international fora, such as the United Nations (UN) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Canada will continue to pursue a robust leadership role in the negotiation and implementation of instruments that provide a framework for the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources and strengthen oversight of the world's oceans. This includes efforts to actively engage in and influence the dialogue for ensuring that post-2020 biodiversity conservation goals are robust, realistic, and based on clear scientific evidence, enforceable, and strengthen overall management of the oceans to achieve conservation objectives. This would include the advancement of international standards for Marine Protected Areas at the CBD, building on those under development in Canada.



Canada will also support and advance oceans conservation and protection in areas beyond national jurisdiction, including through the development of a new UN Treaty on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdictions (BBNJ). In support of this, Canada will advance the development of transboundary protection mechanisms: a conservation area in the High Seas (Sargasso Sea), and a model for a first transboundary Indigenous Protected Area in Davis Strait, jointly with Greenland and Inuit

s.21(1)(b)

(North Water Polynya). Canada would seek partnership with other countries to achieve this, with G7 countries who support these objectives as pilots to test our concepts under negotiation in BBNJ.

Negotiations on the new BBNJ treaty will begin in September 2018, as an implementing agreement under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. It is anticipated that this treaty will result in the development of a cohesive global system to coordinate the conservation and use of marine biodiversity, and will include the following elements: marine genetic resources; area-based management tools, including marine protected areas; environmental impact assessments; and, capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology. Canada has advocated for a treaty that does not undermine the role, mandate and work of existing regional and sectoral bodies that manage activities on the high seas (e.g. regional fisheries management organizations, International Maritime Organization and International Seabed Authority), and respects the careful balance of rights established between coastal and non-coastal states reflected in UNCLOS.

The Environment, Energy and Oceans Ministerial G7 meeting would serve as a prime opportunity for Canada to “test the waters” on the importance it ascribes to these areas and build alliances where these exist, for moving beyond G7 to other fora to garner support required to advance these initiatives at the CBD and the UN.

Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing

Managing fisheries sustainably is essential for the conservation of the marine environment, for food security and nutrition, and to contribute to income, wealth and poverty alleviation for billions of people around the world, particularly for developing States. IUU fishing continues to be a global problem with significant economic, social, and environmental consequences.

Worldwide economic losses from IUU have been estimated at US\$10-23 billion annually.¹ While IUU fishing occurs in many oceans and regions around globe, most IUU catches are from waters of developing states with weaker control over foreign flagged and foreign owned fishing vessels accessing their waters illegitimately. Others access their waters with some permission but without proper reporting of catches. IUU fishing poses a threat to the state of global fish stocks. Illegal catches are not factored in scientific assessments of fish stocks putting into question the science basis for decision-making on legitimate legal fisheries.

IUU fishing poses a direct threat to developing states from the lost economic value of the IUU catch and access to fish for food security. IUU fishing is often connected to other illicit activities including drug trafficking, illegal migration of people, slavery, and piracy. The international community has been seized with the issue for over two decades and many international actions and instruments have been developed to assist in tackling this issue. The root cause of IUU fishing is the lack of effective flag state control, flag states being the primary responsible state for their vessels under international law. Lack of political will and in some instances capacity, are key reasons for the problem.

Coastal states can play an important role for such activities inside their waters. Regional Fisheries Management Organizations play an important role for activities on the high seas. States that open their ports and markets to IUU products contribute to the problem, and conversely present opportunities to help address them, by imposing restrictions. All of these avenues have been developed at the international level through work at the FAO and other institutions. Capacity in developing coastal countries remains a key challenge, both in terms of monitoring and detecting activities in their waters, and putting in place control and management mechanisms on foreign vessels to report catches, and fish sustainably.

Various complementary tools have been developed to improve monitoring and control of fisheries to tackle IUU fishing, including vessel monitoring systems (VMS), satellite image monitoring, port State measures, regional catch documentation schemes and trade restrictions associated to IUU fishing targeting vessels and targeting countries with few controls to over their flagged vessels fishing on the high seas and in other states' coastal waters.

Canada has a robust enforcement regime for addressing IUU fishing in domestic and international waters and is currently engaged in a range of activities to combat IUU fishing activities.

All other G7 countries are already party to the FAO Port State Measures Agreement to combat IUU fishing, including the European Union on behalf of its Member States. The main purpose of the Agreement is to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing by requiring that fishing vessels request permission to dock at a port and inform the port of the details of its fishing operations. Permission to dock can be denied if IUU fishing has occurred. The measure is intended to block illegally caught fish from entering the marketplace.

¹ Agnew DJ, Pearce J, Pramod G, Peatman T, Watson R, et al. (2009) *Estimating the Worldwide Extent of Illegal Fishing*. <http://www.plosone.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pone.0004570>

s.69(1)(g) re: (c)

s.69(1)(g) re: (f)

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) actively participates in, or indirectly contributes to, a number of international initiatives and international organizations in combatting IUU fishing such as INTERPOL and the International Monitoring Control and Surveillance (IMCS) Network. DFO also contributes to international fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance efforts through its memberships in a number of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs). Direct participation in key international enforcement committees allows Canada to promote international fisheries compliance, meet its international obligations and contribute to combating threats to shared global fisheries resources.

A G7 commitment to require vessel identification numbers on all fishing vessels working through the International Maritime Organization (IMO) would enable more easy identification of IUU fishing vessels using satellite based technology. This information would point to the flag state of the vessel more easily and enable enforcement action to be taken in a more effective way. The target for this would not be the smaller coastal fishing vessels of developing states, but instead the larger vessels fishing illegally.

Such a commitment combined with an agreement to enhance the use of satellite tracking and the sharing of intelligence among enforcement personnel, would help to tackle the IUU fishing problem. Creating a platform to facilitate investments in new satellite technology, more easily accessible to developing states and others would also provide support to tackle the issue. And sharing of best practices with developing states will be critical to supporting their efforts in addressing the problem.

KEY MESSAGES

- With the increase in human activity and its resulting impacts on the oceans, new approaches to managing the ocean and its resources are needed to ensure the protection of vulnerable marine species and ocean ecosystems, especially those in shared ocean spaces such as the high seas.
- As part of Canada's presidency of the G7 this year, we are calling for strengthening observation systems and improving the availability of data to detect and track ocean stressors, ocean risks, and storm surges to better understand the impact of these changes on the nations that rely on oceans for their survival.
- We are also calling for increased, coordinated action to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. This could include:
 - Building stronger public-private partnerships with key countries and technology providers to deploy innovative platforms, including satellites.

- Advancing the adoption and implementation of a mandatory unique vessel identification number for all fishing vessels through the International Maritime Organization.
 - Supporting the launch of regional fisheries intelligence groups, in partnership with INTERPOL and other organizations, to share information on IUU fishing.
 - Support the leadership and empowerment of women and youth as agents of positive change, including in fisheries management and decision-making to address food security.
- We support the inclusion of women and girls in marine and coastal management by increasing educational, training and professional exchange opportunities, especially for women and girls of developing coastal states.

Responsive, on Port State Measures Agreement

- The Government of Canada has unwavering support for this international agreement and we are committed to its implementation to combat IUU fishing.



s.69(1)(g) re: (c)

s.69(1)(g) re: (f)

COMBATting ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING

CANADIAN POSITION

- Illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing continues to be a global problem with significant economic, social, and environmental consequences.
- Canada employs a broad range of techniques domestically to prevent IUU fishing, and participates in a number of international initiatives and international organizations to combat IUU fishing globally.

BACKGROUND

Managing fisheries sustainably is essential for the conservation of the marine environment, for food security and nutrition, and to contribute to income, wealth and poverty alleviation for billions of people around the world, particularly for developing States. IUU fishing continues to be a global problem with significant economic, social, and environmental consequences.

Worldwide economic losses from IUU have been estimated at US\$10-23 billion annually.¹ While IUU fishing occurs in many oceans and regions around globe, most IUU catches are from waters of developing states with weaker control over foreign flagged and foreign owned fishing vessels accessing their waters illegitimately. Others access their waters with some permission but without proper reporting of catches. IUU fishing poses a threat to the state of global fish stocks. Illegal catches are not factored in scientific assessments of fish stocks putting into question the science basis for decision-making on legitimate legal fisheries.

IUU fishing poses a direct threat to developing states from the lost economic value of the IUU catch and access to fish for food security. IUU fishing is often connected to other illicit activities including drug trafficking, illegal migration of people, slavery, and piracy. The international community has been seized with the issue for over two decades and many international actions and instruments have been developed to assists in tackling this issue. The root cause of IUU fishing is the lack of effective flag state control, flag states being the primary responsible state for their vessels under international law. Lack of political will and in some instances capacity, are key reasons for the problem.

Coastal states can play an important role for such activities inside their waters. Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) play an important role for activities on the high seas. States that open their ports and markets to IUU products contribute to the problem, and conversely present opportunities to help address them, by imposing restrictions. All of these avenues have been developed at the international level through work at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other institutions. Capacity in

¹ Agnew DJ, Pearce J, Pramod G, Peatman T, Watson R, et al. (2009) *Estimating the Worldwide Extent of Illegal Fishing*. <http://www.plosone.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pone.0004570>

developing coastal countries remains a key challenge, both in terms of monitoring and detecting activities in their waters, and putting in place control and management mechanisms on foreign vessels to report catches, and fish sustainably.

Various complementary tools have been developed to improve monitoring and control of fisheries to tackle IUU fishing, including vessel monitoring systems (VMS), satellite image monitoring, port State measures, regional catch documentation schemes and trade restrictions associated to IUU fishing targeting vessels and targeting countries with few controls to over their flagged vessels fishing on the high seas and in other states' coastal waters.

Canada has a robust enforcement regime for addressing IUU fishing in domestic and international waters and is currently engaged in a range of activities to combat IUU fishing activities.

Internationally, fisheries governance is underpinned by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982 (UNCLOS), a comprehensive legal text that establishes jurisdiction and governance parameters of many key natural resources, including high seas fisheries. UNCLOS encompasses a broad span of rights and obligations relating not only to fisheries, but also to transit and seabed resources. Among G7 members, almost all countries and the European Union on behalf of its member States are party to UNCLOS, with the exception of the United States of America.

Since UNCLOS was adopted in 1982, further clarification has been needed to address gaps in high seas fisheries conservation and management, notably regarding straddling and highly migratory species such as tuna. The United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement of 1995 (UNFSA) was, in part, recognition that these types of stocks were vulnerable to overexploitation and loopholes in earlier regimes. UNFSA underlines the special interest of coastal States in the conservation of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks. It also elaborates on the UNCLOS provisions of the duty to co-operate and the duties of the flag State, including the obligation to apply the precautionary approach by setting limit reference points for maximum sustainable yield. Ecosystems and biodiversity concerns must be factored into the management process. The creation and use of RFMOs are also promoted as a means of fulfilling the duty of States to co-operate. All G7 members are party to UNFSA, including the European Union on behalf of its member States.

All G7 countries except for Canada are also party to the FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) to combat IUU fishing, including the European Union on behalf of its Member States. The main purpose of this Agreement is to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing by requiring that fishing vessels request permission to dock at a port and inform the port of the details of its fishing operations. Permission to dock can be denied if IUU fishing has occurred. The measure is intended to block illegally caught fish from entering the marketplace.

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s.21(1)(b)

s.69(1)(g) re: (c) Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) actively participates in, or indirectly contributes to, a number of international initiatives and international organizations in combatting IUU fishing such as INTERPOL and the International Monitoring Control and Surveillance (IMCS) Network. DFO also contributes to international fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance efforts through its memberships in a number of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs). Direct participation in key international enforcement committees allows Canada to promote international fisheries compliance, meet its international obligations and contribute to combating threats to shared global fisheries resources.

s.69(1)(g) re: (f)

A G7 commitment to require vessel identification numbers on all fishing vessels working through the International Maritime Organization (IMO) would enable more easy identification of IUU fishing vessels using satellite based technology. This information would point to the flag state of the vessel more easily and enable enforcement action to be taken in a more effective way. The target for this would not be the smaller coastal fishing vessels of developing states, but instead the larger vessels fishing illegally.

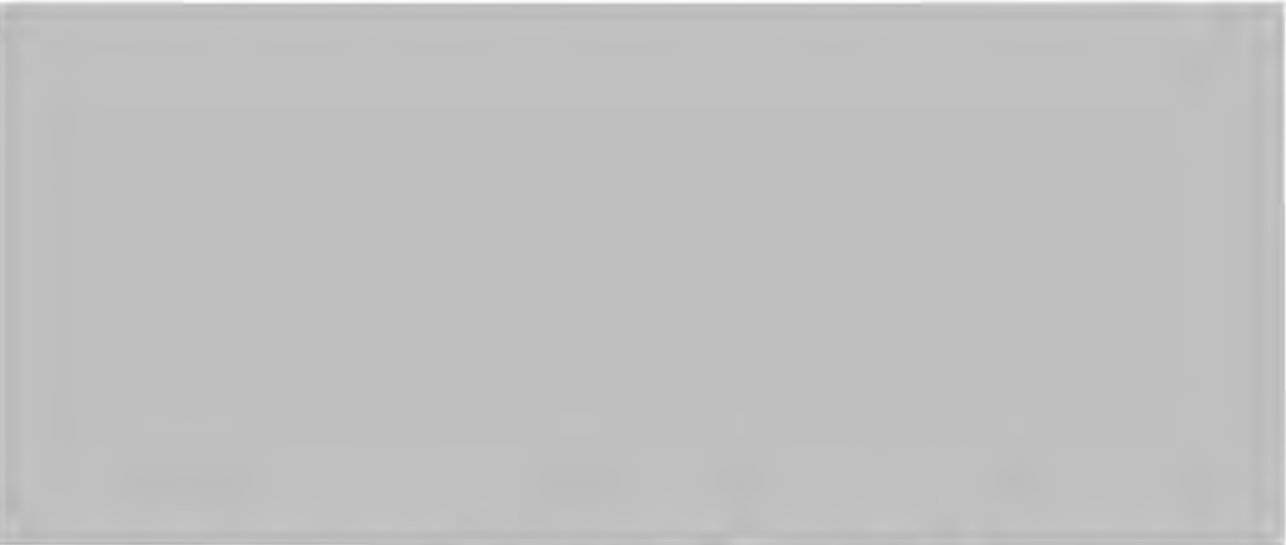
Such a commitment combined with an agreement to enhance the use of satellite tracking and the sharing of intelligence among enforcement personnel, would help to tackle the IUU fishing problem. Creating a platform to facilitate investments in new satellite technology, more easily accessible to developing states and others would also provide support to tackle the issue. And sharing of best practices with developing states will be critical to supporting their efforts in addressing the problem.

OTHER G7 STATE POSITIONS

There is general support among all G7 members to cooperate to address the global problem of IUU fishing. All the G7 countries have marine fishing fleets of varying sizes, and are interested in maintaining the competitiveness of their marine fishing industries and the sustainability of the stocks they fish. G7 countries are also importers and consumers of fish caught in other parts of the world, and therefore have an interest in keeping IUU fish out of the global seafood value chain.

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On a working level conference call on the G7 Oceans theme on March 28, 2018 participating G7 countries noted broad support of action on IUU fishing in the context of the G7. At the FASS meeting in Ottawa, several delegations were supportive of considering the “positive” angle of sustainable fishing, food security, and consumer choices. It was highlighted that this could be an opportunity for the G7 to speak about fisheries as part of food security for the first time.

There was a call to link IUU fishing as one aspect of the broader issue of overexploitation of fish stocks.

In light of the various UN bodies that address oceans and fishing issues, there was a call to properly reference the role they play and how any G7 efforts would mobilize support for existing programs and initiatives.



KEY MESSAGES

- **The fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing is gaining momentum internationally, but there is still a lot of work to be done.**
- **The Government of Canada believes that G7 members are in a position to accelerate this work by collaborating on specific areas:**
 - **Building stronger public-private partnerships with key countries and technology providers to deploy innovative platforms, including satellites.**
 - **Advancing the adoption and implementation of a mandatory unique vessel identification number for all fishing vessels through the International Maritime Organization.**
 - **Supporting the launch of regional fisheries intelligence groups, in partnership with INTERPOL and other organizations, to share information on IUU fishing.**
 - **Supporting the leadership and empowerment of women and youth as agents of positive change, including in fisheries management and decision-making to address food security.**
- **The Government of Canada is committed to managing marine fisheries sustainably. We do so based on effective measures such as ecosystem approaches, the precautionary approach, sound scientific evidence, and responsible stewardship policies and practices.**

STATE OF PLAY REGARDING IUU FISHING

ISSUES

1. FAO Port State Measures Agreement: state of play and implementation
2. FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Flag State Performance: implementation
3. Port State, Market State and Flag State Considerations

GENERAL BACKGROUND ON IUU FISHING

- Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing is a major contributor to declining fish stocks and marine habitat destruction, which has significant economic, social, and environmental consequences. Worldwide economic losses to legitimate enterprise from IUU fishing are estimated at US\$10-23 billion annually.¹
- IUU fishing poses a direct threat to all States, but in particular developing States, from the lost economic value of the IUU catch and access to fish for food security. IUU fishing is often linked to national security concerns and to illicit activities including drug trafficking, illegal migration of people, slavery, and piracy.
- The root cause of IUU fishing is the lack of effective flag State control, flag States being the primary State responsible for their vessels under international law. Lack of political will and in some instances capacity, are key reasons for the problem.
- Coastal States can play an important role for such activities inside their waters. Regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) play an important role for activities on the high seas. States that open their ports and markets to IUU products contribute to the problem, but also present opportunities to help address IUU fishing by imposing restrictions. All of these avenues have been developed at the international level through work at the FAO and other institutions.
- Capacity in developing coastal States remains a key challenge, both in terms of monitoring and detecting activities in their waters, and putting in place control and management mechanisms on foreign vessels to report catches, and fish sustainably.
- Various complementary tools have been developed to improve monitoring and control of fisheries to tackle IUU fishing, including vessel monitoring systems (VMS), satellite image monitoring, port State measures, and catch documentation schemes. Canada has a robust enforcement regime for addressing IUU fishing in domestic and international waters and is currently engaged in a range of activities to combat IUU fishing activities.

¹ Agnew DJ, Pearce J, Pramod G, Peatman T, Watson R, et al. (2009) Estimating the Worldwide Extent of Illegal Fishing. <http://www.plosone.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pone.0004570>

1. FAO Port State Measures Agreement

BACKGROUND

- The 2009 *Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing*, also known as the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA), is a binding treaty on measures that port States can take to combat illegal fishing globally. The PSMA sets global minimum standards for actions that port States must take when a foreign vessel, known or suspected to have engaged in or supported illegal fishing, seeks to enter a port or use port services.
- The PSMA came into force June 5, 2016 after 25 states became parties. As of December 2017, there are 50 States party to the PSMA, plus the EU for a total of 51 parties. Eight other countries have signed it but not yet ratified.
- The first meeting of the Parties to the PSMA was held May 29-31, 2017 in Oslo, Norway, directly followed by the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Implementation, June 1-2, 2017. A representative of DFO attended both meetings, which were open to parties and non-parties of the PSMA.
- The discussion during the first meeting of the Parties centered around: the need to draft Rules of Procedure for future meetings; the role of the FAO to coordinate the collection and dissemination of certain information under the Agreement (such as contact points for Parties, and list of authorized ports for landing); the possible creation of a technical working group to discuss aspects related to consistent inspection practices and communication of results; and, the need for capacity support for developing States, through the Ad-Hoc Working Group on Implementation and the associated support fund to be developed.
- The first meeting of the PSMA Technical Working Group on Information Exchange (TWG-IE) was held in London, UK, April 16-18, 2018. Representatives of DFO (External Relations, and Conservation and Protection) and Norway (Ministry of Fisheries) attended. Participants agreed to call for a staged approach to develop a global information exchange system, prioritizing the need to access basic information such as designated ports and national point of contacts. A second meeting of TWG-IE will be held in early 2019, prior to the second meeting of the Parties to the PSMA, in mid-2019.

CANADIAN POSITION

- Canada was involved in the negotiation of the PSMA under the FAO, and signed the Agreement in 2010, signalling our intent to ratify and implement the Agreement.
- Canada already has a robust system of port measures with respect to foreign fishing vessels in our ports, but existing legislation required a handful of adjustments to align with the PSMA. This includes rare situations not previously considered in Canadian legislation, such as if a foreign fishing vessel is ordered by its own flag State to proceed to the nearest port for inspection or enforcement purposes.

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KEY MESSAGES

- **The Government of Canada has unwavering support for this international agreement and we are committed to its implementation to combat IUU fishing.**
- **Canada is completing the process of amending domestic regulations to enable us to ratify the Port State Measures Agreement, and expect to be in a position to ratify in 2018.**
- **In the meantime, Canada plans to actively support broader adoption of this critical tool to combat illegal fishing. We participated in the recent working group on information exchange under the PSMA and will continue to be active in any future work under the agreement.**

2. FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Flag State Performance

BACKGROUND

- The FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance (VG FSP) aims to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing through the effective implementation of flag State responsibilities. They articulate a range of actions that countries can take to ensure that vessels registered under their flags do not conduct IUU fishing.
- The VG FSP aim to discourage “flag hopping” by vessels, among other things, by promoting greater cooperation and information exchange between countries, so that flag States can avoid registering vessels that have previously been reported for IUU fishing, or that are already registered with another flag State.
- The VG FSP also include recommendations on how flag States can encourage compliance and take action against non-compliance by vessels, as well as on how to enhance international cooperation to assist developing countries to fulfil their flag State responsibilities.

CANADIAN POSITION

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- Historically, Canada has been a vocal advocate for greater implementation of flag State responsibilities. Canada provided some funding and actively participated in the development of the FAO's Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance, and supported their endorsement at the FAO Committee on Fisheries meeting in June 2014.
- Canada supports the use of these Guidelines for flag State self-assessment.
- Very few Canadian-flagged vessels fish outside of Canadian fisheries waters. Most vessels that do so fish in RFMOs or under treaties to which Canada is party. As such, these Canadian vessels are closely regulated and monitored.
- As part of preparation for negotiation of the VG FSP, Canada did an informal assessment of implementation of our responsibilities as a flag State for fishing vessels. Since the adoption of the VG FSP, Canada has not conducted a formal assessment.
- The North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) recently directed its contracting parties to conduct formal assessments of their implementation of the VG FSP.

KEY MESSAGES

- **Canada supports the use of these Guidelines for flag State self-assessment. Canada did an informal assessment of implementation of our responsibilities as a flag State for fishing vessels during the negotiation of the Voluntary Guidelines.**

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3. Port State, Market State and Flag State Considerations

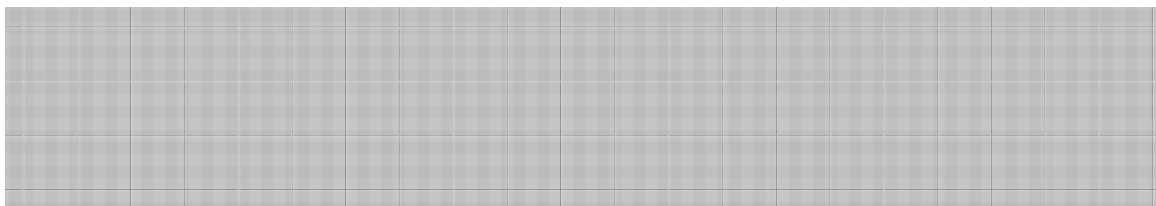
BACKGROUND

- Flag States have primary responsibility for their vessels under international law, but coastal States, port States and market States also have important roles to play to prevent deter and eliminate IUU.
- Coastal States have responsibility for conservation, protection and enforcement in their fisheries waters, and cooperate with other States to manage straddling and highly migratory fish stocks, through RFMOs, bilateral treaties, and other networks.
- Port States can take measures to prevent IUU fish from being landed, imported, or transshipped in their ports, help identify IUU vessels through port inspections, and prevent IUU products from entering the markets.
- Market States can take action by using trade measures to prevent the import of IUU products; this can include participating in catch documentation schemes (CDS) for specific species, applying import bans on certain products or products from certain origins, implementing traceability requirements for imported products, etc.
- Negotiations are ongoing in the World Trade Organization (WTO) on eliminating harmful fisheries subsidies, as called for in UN Sustainable Goal 14.6 (see also the issue notes on UN SGDs and WTO subsidies negotiations.) The most likely prospect for a WTO outcome in 2019 is a prohibition on subsidies to vessels listed by a RFMO or flag state as having engaged in IUU fishing. Some states are advocating to further include coastal state lists (regarding other country vessels) and subsidizing member lists (a member subsidizing another country's vessels).

CANADIAN POSITION

- Canada is a flag State, a port State for some foreign fishing vessels, a coastal State with a vast marine estate to protect, and a market State that both imports and exports large quantities of fish and seafood products.

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- Canada's approach to the oceans agenda through our G7 Presidency is emerging through a proposed G7 Blueprint for Healthy, Productive and Resilient Oceans.

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KEY MESSAGES

- **As part of changes to our regulations to implement the PSMA, Canada will also be making more RFMO catch documentation schemes mandatory for imports of fish species covered by those CDS.**
- **Canada strongly supports the WTO fisheries subsidies negotiations and is seeking an effective outcome in advance of the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference in 2019. Canada is of the view that prohibitions should focus on IUU-listed vessels and subsidies that have a “negative effect” on overfished stocks.**

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